



*tyan* Extremities  
Vrging the Lord General Sir

FRA. VEARE to offer the late Anti-parle  
with the Arch-duke *Albertus*. Written by an  
*English Gentleman of very good account*  
from *Ostend*, to a Worshipfull Gentle-  
man his friend here in England:  
Imprinted verbatim according  
to the originall.

*tyan*  
*mjt*

With a declaration of the desperate attempt  
made since, by the sayd *Arch-dukes* forces,  
for the winning of the olde Towne.



AT LONDON  
Printed for Thomas Paucier.

*tyan* *win* *m*

1602.





Jo Extremities pressing the Lord Generall, sir  
*FRAVNCIS YEARE*, to offer the late  
Anti-parle to the Arch-duke  
*Albertus*.

**N**OT doubting, but your Worshop hath heard  
of our late Anti-parle with the Arch-duke *Al-*  
*bertus*, heare in *offend*, which I assure my selfe, is  
of many wondered at: and againe, knowing that no  
small number will iudge thereof; Some, according to  
their vnderstandings, and other-some as they are caried  
with affection: I haue thought good, to aduertise you of  
the very truth thereof, for your Worships satisfactions  
And better contentment of all Gentle-men to whom it  
shall please you to impart the same. Wherein I assure  
you, I haue plainly set downe the truth, without all  
faueur or affection, as hereafter followeth.

**H**is Lord-ship, hauing by many letters for the  
space of two Monethes together, solicited the  
States to reenforce him with fresh supplies  
of men, was still answered againe with hope-  
full promises, meane time his troupes in  
Towne were generally harrazed and woyn  
out, especially the English, by guarding and watching in the  
workes, without the towne euery second night, for the space of  
five Moneths together: their durrie passage thither, and their  
myrie guards there, infecting them daily with increase of sick-  
ness.

nelle : so as by diseases, and other accidentes of Warre, he had not remayning at the time of the Parley begun, being on Sunday night the xiii. of December (after the olde stile) of 8000. Souldiers and vpwordes, 2150: And such as know Ottend as it is now, & haue withall any indgement in martiall affayres, can discern that the Towne alone cannot be sufficiently guarded with 3000. men, leauing out of this computation the outward workes, and most part of the Counterscarpes, which are in deed principall pillars of safetie to this place.

Againe, the fury of the sea had so demolished the Rampart of the Towne, that the same lay very weak and open in many places for the Enemies passage. And (notwithstanding that good induours had been used, and much cost bestowed to secure vs against both those dangers, by stoye of long Greene Kise-wood leeged in a pile at the North-west end of the Fawke bray (the suppozt of the foot of the Bulwarke called the Sand-hill) and of like wood platted along the foote of the Sand-hill to the Sea-ward, fained (besides the workmans art) with great stones, and well lined with sunny ranks of Palladoes armed with long and strong nayles of Iron) yet did the Enemy in the darknes of a boysterous nyght at a low water, so artetically, and with such expedition, put fire to the same Pile, entertaining our guardes a good distance from thence, towards the North-east part of the old Towne with an alarum, in the meane time that few enclyned their eyes to this fiery busines, untill the fire had fully embraced the same Pile. This alarum being (to say truely) coldly taken, the Enemy followed his popnt till they came to the place of our new Hauch, being neare the North-east rauelling, and there finding the passage to enter open, and no apparance of resistance, they entred : and coming to a Corps du guard, they found one onely drowsey bird in the nest, whom they killed, the rest being shamefully fled after their wonted manner : yet I forbear to name my Nation, *Euphonia gratia.*

In the heate of this busines, his Lordship (tenderly accompanied) fell vpon the skirt of all the place where the enemies were, and being with much difficultie perswaded to stay his further



ther progresse, till discoverie might be made before him, much troubled with feare of treason, he sent away Captaine Studder, Commander of his owne companie, with one Haister Greuill, Haister Tedcastle, & some one or two private men besides. These stumbled vpon the enimie: against whom making a countenance of a charge by their voyces, Sa, Sa, &c. put the to retire to the landes by the same way they entred: whereby it may be conceiued they had full view of our new Haven, there they perceiuing the fewnes of those that pursued them, turned head, and with a Musket, shot Captaine Studder through the arme, and then made away, none of ours in case to follow them, by reason of their Canallary, whereof we haue none in Towne. Had this errour been committed by any English Commander, I durst haue aduentured to haue made an Almanacke of his end.

This fire burned outrageously for the space of 3. dayes and nights without ceasing, viz from Thursday night till Sunday night: neither could our Souldiers come well to quench it, the enemies Cannon still giuing against them, when they offered themselves thereto: neither could the billowes of the sea, wa-ving at euery tyde farre aboue the height of the fire, extinguish the same: for it had gotten passage into the ground, and there found matter of continuall nourishment, by such tymber and postes as were lodged there, for the support of the foote of the peece: and though it had been quenched sundry times, yet doth it burst out againe: and on Tuesday last, I saw it burne againe my selfe. Our chiefeest enginoys are of opinion, that y<sup>e</sup> sand heated with such extremitie, by fury of the fire in the pile of Rife, is the chiefeest cause of the long continuance thereof. By this fire the Fawxbray, and the side of the Sand hil lying towardes the sea, were both layd open againe to the mercy of all weathers, and violence of the enemies, in farre worse sort then it was before: and this was an other instance of inducement, &c.

Another is, and that not the least passage to allow, for his L<sup>ty</sup> was, we were & are still many contrary nations in towne, English, French, Scots, Wallons, & Dutch and thereby a hotch-pot of contrary and dissonant humors. A naturall instinct as the world knoweth, hauing disioyntment of affections, yet hitherto we haue had good harmonie, and by his Lordships well tempered

command, all humours well tuned, neuertheless since the enemy had formerly beene practizing by sowing of factions amongst vs, his Lordship to preuent the worst, layd these reasons as one step to his proiect.

Further his Lordship had 4. little fortresses called Reddotts in hand at the same time vpon the rampart of the olde Towne, for the better securing therof with few men, if the enemy should attempt vs, for those litle skones would haue been their scourges vpon their entrie (each one flanking other) & one guardable against their furie with few men: for besides their Ramparts they now are fenced about with heigheyt and very strong pallisadoes: these begun workes lay open, and nothing neere finished. And this was another branch of his Lordships feares.

After all these, commeth the maine, which was, as his Lordship was certainly informed, that the Arch-duke was resolved that night to attempt vs in maner following, viz. The Countie De Bukquoy, who commanded the forces on the East-side of the Town, was to giue onset at the North-east rauelling of the old Town vpon a low water, which serued that time exceeding well for their purpose falling out about 6. of the clocke at night.

Then from the West, they purposed to try vs by the Sand-hill, & in two places more of the old Towne, viz. the port Dupied, which is a small rauelling in a counterescarp, lying West North-west from the Towne, and is indeed a place of great import for the keeping of the Town-ditch full with water, and to preuent the enemies passage to sap our maine Rampart: and this place by fury of the sea, and rage of their Cannon, lay then meerely open and not tenable by any meanes.

Sap, or undermine.

Their other places where to come on, were our out-ward workes, lying South and by West from the Towne, called the South square, the Powder, and the West square: from which last worke commonly called the Coltonels worke, they had about 3. weekes before beene gallantly repulled in the night, by our guardours, beeing all English, and giuen to returne with farre lesse blood, then they brought thither.

Another reason which was very powerfull with his Lordship, was a noble and religious care and sense to spare the effusion

tion of so much Christian blood as in all likelihood (if the enemy had assaied to carry vs by their resolved furie) must haue bin shed on both sides.

Truelled with these extreames of impendant dangers, his Lordship after many bitter trauerles through his great heart that scornes to stoope, to the mightiest enemy whosoever, found that neuertheless the best, and most assured passage to generall safetie, was to tempozize with the enemy by a Parley, for, *Dolus an virtus quis in hoste requirat*, till the finishing of his workes in hand, and the arriuall of his succours howeuer expected, might settle him againe in tearmes of better assurance.

But by the way, I had forgotten to tell you sir, that vpon preconsultation, all our outward woorkes aboue mentioned, were to be abandoned, and all our men draine into the Towne, and so they were: for as I said before, the paucitie of our numbers was such as came farre short of a proportionable guard for the Towne alone, yet through the slacknes of the States, his Lordship had formerly been driuen to extenuate his said workes to halfe their greatnes, to make them guardable by few men: for they doe much impoert the safetie of the towne.

Now, sir, to lay our extreames thus open to the enemy, to his so great aduantage and incouragement, and notwithstanding to be little or nothing secured thereby, what a gaule and ex-crutiamment it might be to his L. those that know the temper of his spirit, can easily coniecture, but are now repayed.

So summoning (as I said in foze before) all his considerations together, he fled to that refuge necessarie shewed him to bee the most assured. And hereupon called all his Captaines of the seuerall nations together, or so many of them as were not in guard, the time would endure no delay. This being towards euenng on the Sunday formerly mentioned, they all hearing his conceite, applaude it, and the Netherlanders moze forward then all the rest, doe almost presse him with importunities to diligent the execution thereof, offering themselves to bee agents therein, but shynke in the wetting immediatly: which coldnes and refusall of theirs, had almost quite vntwisted the clew of their late resolution: in the ende, Captaine Ogley, Lieutenant

tenant Collorell to his Lordship, and Capt. Fairfax, are destined to be the men, as Hostages onely for such as the Archduke should send hither to treat with his Lordship.

And so immediately upon sound of one of our Drums from the port Dupied after losse of some breath by Capt. Ogle, who was binheard, called to them a good space in Spanish from thence, they were roused to attention: being (as was conceived) busie about their enterprize, and so, not so attentive as it is like otherwise they would have been, considering how neare and dangerous neighbours we are one to the other.

All this tedious Discourse, I haue bin bound to trouble your Worshippe withall, onely as a Lanthorne to giue you the best light I could, for the thorough understanding of our estate euerie way: and now I will bring the acting of this proiect before you upon the stage, beseeching your pardon if I shall seeme taxable for idle highnes, by inserting accidentall ieces in a subject of such weight and seriousness: for many times, *Ducunt et sena iuga.*

His Lordship (as I haue before declared) hauing made tender of his harsh tasting parley: I name it harsh, in regard of his constraint, theretoinding the enemy very tractable, and exceeding prompt to entertaine the same, did without any losse of time the same euening, send away to them the two fore-named Captaines, Ogle and Fairfax, vpon sayth giuen for their safety and returne. A truce and generall cessation of all hostilitie on both sides being promised during the time of their treatie for land matters, but no further. Heteby our abandoned workes remayned neutrall, although quited by vs, yet not lawfull to be possessed by them. Upon the arrival of our Hostages in the enemies Arme, they were brought to his Altesse. at his skons of Albertus: he for welcome bayled his hat sparingly, bad them welcome, demanding of what nation they were, whether they had instruction from our Generall to treat with him about this place, and vpon their answere thereto negatively: he asked them further if there were not fraude intended? They answere as ignorantes of any, and that they are onely sent as Hosts for such as his Highnes should please to send

to his Lordship about the proposed business: and so with a second, but more slender respect with his Hat, they were carried from his presence to the lodging of Don Augustino de messia, a gray and graue headed Spaniard, Governour of the Castle of Antwerp, chiefe Commander of the Archdukes forces at the west end of this town, a gentleman of most accomplished vertues, by their applauses: in the chamber of this youthfull old gallant (so to his gray head hee weareth a graine habite) they were lodged, the place being beautified with faire hangings and reciprocal correspondents in the rest. By all the gallants, Spaniards, Italians, and whosoever else of other nations, of any respect, they were entertained, and courted by turnes, and having withall many watchfull eyes, and listning eares on them: but the gentlemen both of them, haue been so well bred, and are so well qualified, that neither of them will easily open way by any unadvisednes for taxation of indiscretion, much they were not suffered to haue further view of any worke, or way, then where they passed, neither were they free of a watchfull guard over them.

Whilist these flourishes of hostile courtesie increased (no doubt w<sup>th</sup> hope of a speedie good bargain) & smiles vpon our Capt. in the enemies Campe, one Matheo Serano Governour of Shuse, Generall of the Archdukes artillerie, and one of his Counsell of warre, together with one Matheo Anthonias Sergeant maior to Simon Anthuzino gouvernour of Antwerp towne, both Spaniards and men of prompt and smart spirittes, and Iudiciall reach, came into the towne, but his Lordship prosecuting still the meanes to winne time, and how to entertaine delays, did as was imagined (vpon the approach of the two Spaniards) attended ouer the water at West, with about 60 horse, cause an alarm to be taken, for hee stood where he saw them all plainly, and layd hold on the manner of their coming for his advantage, charging them with breach of promise, and other souldier-like taxations, and so would neither speake with them, nor see them, but gave peremptorie commande, that they should be forthwith returned back, thereupon they were conducted back to the place where they came over, but the sea  
 15. being



being growne (which his Lordship knew well enough) denyed them passage, and thereupon backe againe into the towne they came fraught with new hopes of better intertainmēt (& heate of their desire feeling by the eyes of their iudgment) his L. being aduertised hereof, gaue present order they should be sent away by the Cast.

Now sir you may please to know that Serano being scarce well pleased (not withstanding the large walke betwæne the skonsse Albertus, and their trenches) grewe somewhat wearie, and desired to stay in towne all night, but that would not bee graunted, and so the Sergeant Maioz of the towne (Captaine Carpenter by name, and one Captaine Cleere a Scotch man) conuoyde them through the towne, with euery stepp by the knees (at least) in durte and myze, so as the tired Spaniard began to endure a breach in his patience vpon the Spanish bulwark, which lyeth at the East end of the towne, a spectall Magutizine of durte and myzes, standing by to the knees, he desired some Tobacco for his refreshing, exclaiming in French, Ah la mechant ville de Ostend, but in stead thereof (because there was none to be had) he, and his associates were presented with 4 potts of good English Ware, which went downe merilie, and so throughly be-durted, they were brought to the Sentinell of Canallarie on the East sands, and out of their extreames and myzie wearines, they lodged at Cast all night, with Count De Bucquoy, not being able to recouer the Archdukes quarter before the next day at sone. And hereby so much time was gotten.

After the returne of the two Spaniards to their Duke, the same men were againe appointed to trie his Lordshippe once more, and sending word ouer to vs thereof, were admitted to come, (our Captaines all this while remaining with them vpon faith giuen as aforesayd.) The Sergeant Maioz of the towne demanding which way he should bring them in, his Lordshippe willed him to guide them where they might come soft enough, for feare of embossing their feet on the hard stones: Saying withall, that besides their durtie walke, they should be  
come



came to as cold a bargaine as euer they met w<sup>th</sup>al in their liues.

Upon their entrie (which was vpon Monday night) they were directly brought to his Lordship, being in his Chamber, after enterchang of complements, his Lordship began his excuse for the rudenes he had committed the night befoze, confessing he had ben vn-ciuill, charging (neuer thelesse) the occasion thereof vpon their strange manner of comming ouer, and so according to the Law of Bearne which is *Que le battu payera L. Amende*, they were plagued and must besides confesse themselves woorthye thereof.

They being hot on the chest, saim easily to digest that, & say, now they hope his Lordship & they should agree: he answeres, The agreement is easily made if his Highnes will raise his siege, and suffer vs (as his poore neighbours) to liue by him in peace. Serano replied, thats not his errand thither, but hopes *Que vous ferez de nostre bandes*, his Lordshippe (to cutte off further progression in this discourse) tells them after this wearisome iourney, it is moze fitting to entertaine them with meane refreshing, then with serious expostulation, and ther vpon intreates them to Supper, whereto they yeilde. And although it were their Christmasse euen, and thereby fasting day, they did not forbear eating fish, eggs, and such ionkets, besides as a towne so long besieged could affoord, taking out in Clarret wine what they lacked in meate. Serano drinking for his share aboue fiftie twoo glasses of wine, besides Ware, answering every man in the cuppe, and yet gaue no manner of appearance of yeilding any way to dissemper. During their sitting at supper, many smart iesses were bandied with good dexteritie on both sides. Amongst others, I remember Serano plotting a passage by circumstance of words, to discusse of their perfect busines, gaue his Lordship occasion to tell him that his Altesse desired all, and the States woulde willingly part with nothing. The Spaniard replied, that the Archduke demaunded but his owne: to that his L. tolde him, hee had neuer studied the Lawes to Iudge of mens titles, but that in England wee doe commonly holde possession, 11 poyntes

of the 12, the late is burdened withall, &c. Another was, his Lordship could them, that now his Highnes hauing continued his siege with such admiration and fame, as that in this age & compasse of the world, the like hath not been heard off, and vnten vs to abandon our outward works, & to retire our selues altogether into our towne, he might with great honour arise & leaue vs, and thereby prevent the ruine of his Armie, which through wet lodging, and continuall labour, must needs be extremely decayed, and also prevent the effusion of much christi-an blood otherwise.

To this Serano replied, that since his L. had with such honour (as was applauded throughout all Christendome) so long preserved this place against so powerfull an enemy, and that as they all knew most certainly, many extremities had overtaken him, whereby he was enforced to withstanding himself wholly into that little ruinous nest, it could be no manner of blemish to him to yield, &c.

Thus eyther of them by contrarie intended imputations laboured to extoll his owne carriage and prayles: many other prompt counterbuffes were passed, which (to auoyde tediousnes) I ouer-passe: after supper the Spaniards (wearyed with their late myrie iournies) were by his Lordshippe conducted to their lodging, where with slender guard for fashion sake, before the outwardest doores of the house, they rested till morning. Before which time 3 Shippes of warre laden with 6 companies of Zeland soldiers arrived in the road, before the towne, which the enemy without, seeing it, is easily to iudge whether he was offended or no. Whereupon, betimes on the Tuesday morning they sent in post for his L. resolution, and Serano himselfe (although ignorant of our supplie) importuned his L. for answer, &c. which he receaues forthwith sounding to this effect, viz.

That it was true that some wants through the long contrarietie of the winde, and other accidents had overtaken him, and thereby he enforced to make vse of his wit, to helpe himselfe by winning of time, till his turne was otherwise serued, and that was now since the states had been mindfull of him & wind

winde p[ro]spicious, and his necessitie supplied, he could not in honour p[ro]ceede to traffique with them any further, neither had moze to saye to them, vntill a newe extremitie, (if any might happily lay new hold on him) should occasion him thereto, hoping his highnes as a vertuous and woorthie Prince would not take it ill, that as a martiall man he had practised and compassed the best meanes fo[r] the p[re]seruation of his honour and safetie by the ordinarie and vsuall course of men of warre.

The Spaniard (hauing the faire hopes of his fruitfull harvest thus quite blasted with this cold nipping answer) did neuerthelesse in the most temperate manner he could, smother & suppress his almost choaking discontent: fo[r] hee dreamed by h[is] negotiating of this busines, to haue made himselfe famous to ensuing ages, and so with this cold breake-fast (in stead of his Christmasse pie) he forthwith departed, leaving his companion behind hi[m], till our Captaine should be returned home: his passage backe was by boate at South-west from the Polder Rauelling, where he could see almost no part of our fortification: & vpon his repaire into their trenches, Capt. Fairfax was sent home, and the Lieutenantailed, so as they held the moze woorthie person. About 4 of the clock the same day, Captaine Ogle came to h[is] sands at west against the porte Dupied, accompanied with the great Marshall of the enemies Campe, and with one Owen an English fugitive, saying fo[r] the Spanissh Seriant Paloz here in towne. He hauing dined with my L. after the duch entertainment was conducted out of towne by Capt. Studder to h[is] same place where Serano had been fo[r]merly imboated. There was a little training courisie, who should be passed first. But the Lieutenant Collonell stode not much thereupon, although the woorthier person and the subiect of a farre moze absolute and greater Prince, the reason (as I learned) being because we had been the petitioners, and so the Spaniard carried it.

This I especially obserued being p[re]se it, and seeing the acting thereof, as I did also that his L. (although hee speaketh Spanissh very rebely) did notwithstanding vse onely h[is] French tongue with the twoo Spaniardes, which all the Duch Captaines

taines vnderstanding) they knewe of all that passed, and thereby all ielousie presented. The truth is, the boate laye on our side where the Spanyard was, and the water then ebbing, carried it with a swift course to the enemies side, so that (as it then appeared) when they had giuen the adieu on both sides, and Capt. Ogle entered into the boate, the shippes could not returne against the streame, but drining with the same, landed him on our counterscarp, where he thought best, and here ceased our Iubilie, I call it a Iubilie, for during this cessation of hostilitie, I thinke there issued out of the neighbour enemy townes about 2000 Burgers with their wiues, &c. to come to the Archbishops campe, walking vpp and downe the sandes and trenches of the enemy, verie nere the towne, as though we had been all good friends, and so did their soldiers likewise: but ours kept within of purpose to conceale our weaknes, and notwithstanding faith enterchangably giuen to forbear all violence during the treatie, yet did our whole troups hold continuall and generall guardes without relying vpon any promise at all. All this while our woorkes in the old towne were aduanced with all diligence, and secrecie possible, and made defensible before our Part ended. Our newe forces landed also this day, betwene 12 and 2 of the clocke in the oulde towne, in despite of the enemies Cannon, without anye more losse then the hurt of the two shippers, & as I can learne of two soldiers, but none killed, nor those mortally wounded.

And yet to giue the enemy his due by saying the full truth, they were more then bountifull of powder and shot, to hinder our mens landing. All this while wee remayned quiet on both sides without shotte little or great, but the next morning (being Wednesday) they first opened the windowes of their wonted displeasure; it being my Lords pleasure, that euery man in towne should be quiet, till the enemy should giue occasion to the contrarie, and then wee resaluted them with good Cannon, and so all thinges stand on their former frame, all our outward woorkes repossessed and guarded as before

before, and so wee line dayly expecting more supplies from the States, that our poore men maye nowe at last bee refreshed in Holland after their longe and miserable toyle.

Wee haue vnderstoode of late by an Italian gentleman one of their Centinells Perdues, who was brought prisoner into towne, that the Archduke is highly offended with his counsell of warre for diuerting him from the execution of his resolution, which was to haue attempted vs on the Sondaye night, (so often spoken of before) with 6000 men, &c. that by reason of the extremitie of his passion, fewe of them dare come in his presence, for preventing his oportunitie by their dissuasions: and besides that, he is no lesse displeased to haue been so mocked by his Lordship.

For the future, if the States finde themselves able, and haue withall a will to continue the charge, which the defence of this place hath already, and will still drawe vpon them (the Archduke continuing his siege by relieuing it with competent numbers of well affected soldiers, and other needefull provisions) there is yet no appearance of danger, nor cause to feare the enemies pzenayling: but if they slacke saile, and giue the Duke such an other oportunitie (as hee had nowe of late) they, and all the world besides, may be assured hee will make his best vse thereof.

By Cannon there remaineth small hope for him, if the States saile not to send Rise wood to repaire therewith in the night what hee spoyleth in the day: for, with Rise and sand mingled, we worke chiefly on both sides, we haue already endured aboue 161500 Cannonboes, and yet all our bastions and defences stil firme and tenable, hauing only their outward faces somewhat discountenanced by the furie of the many shot most of them haue endured, especially the sand-hill, which is so farced with bullets, that (our men labouring to hysie in spiked pallisadoes) doe often stumble vpon 6 or 8 in one hole together and their piles, or pallisadoes often hindered in their entrance by the abundance of bullets lodged in their way.



way.

To undermine it is not possible, so long as we can hold what we have, for to the landward lie our outworks, to prevent their approaches that way, & our other places of passage are washed verie high every Tide, and so the sea affordeth them little time to worke against vs, where it challengeth passage. Besides this, all our Bulwarks looking towards their trenches are united, and prepared for all such accidents.

When, eyther furie, faction, or famine must open him way, for furie here is little cause of feare, if (as I sayde before) the States can, and will furnish their towne with sufficient numbers of men.

For faction, the vigilancie, and discretion of the Commander, being a man of sound understanding, trained in this occupation, may easilie breake those impostumations, as hath to his Lordship hath done, to the great increase of his honour, and better approbation of the soundnes of his iudgement: for the enemy made an English man, one Simon Conisbye, an instrument to worke for him that way: but I presume that Conisbye by the rack, and smart of the whip at the gallies foot, hath learned a lesson to seeke some other trade to thine by, and the fellowe was in my charge to keepe, and sounde by questioning, and expostulations, and thereby I knowe the managing of that busines.

And to be famished (unless both the States, and England abandon vs) were verie strange: for (notwithstanding all that tries the enemy hath eyther at East, or West, on the sands or piles of the old Haven, or else where) we have, when the winde serveth, some nights 40 sailes of Voyes and Smacks come in together, and scarce one man hurt. We have further, more a new haven almost ready, where night and day ships may passe at pleasure. Besides, if both these should faile, the States may (with long boats, which they call *coupes*) land anything in the old towne, as they did their Zealand soldiers of late, make this place serveth only for such small open boats, but for no Voyes nor Bontes of burthen.

And



And so fir for a Conclusion, if the States stand vpon teames of honour, and start not aside like a broken bowe (it having ben their fashion to grow wearie of such chargeable nurse children, as they tearme it here) you see many apparant probabilities for their holding of this towne against the Archduke, for a longer time then is expected: he will wast himselfe before it, & yet all the charge of his armie and of all provisions is borne by the country, who haue, and doe still furnish him verie plentifull with all necessaries. Besides, the reconerie of this towne would be so beneficiall vnto him, and such ease to his subjects, as they haue good reason to trie their vttermost meanes to carrie it: for besides, that it would absolutely free all the sea coasts, and country within of roads, and incursions, wherewith they are exceedingly infested by this towne, and withall giue the Archduke good conueniencie for the lodging of his gallies and other shipping with little cost. It would enable him to bring at the least 6000 men moze into the field yearly, then he now doth or can. For hee is constrained to hold many guarrisons in skones builded heere and there in the land, to block vp this towne, which require many men for their defence, and pay on for their wages, and by fortification, &c. a mightie charge. These men, & charges I say, if he could preuaile here, would bee conuerted to other uses, and a spacious countrie of fertile ground now ouerflowed, and seruing to no vse, in few yeares wholly recovered and made profitable, and all contributions (which the feare of this guarrison enforceth) from the Boozes quite cut off.

As I was about the shutting vpp of this tedious and ill digested discourse, Petrus came that the Archduke hath now at last pacified, and reconciled all his mutinous soldiers which haue ben long time in Brabant, as at Derft, Herentalls and other places thereabouts, holding for none but for themselues (their discontent growing from want of pay, which it seemeth the Duke hath not given them contentment of.) And that those forces being neere 5000, and marching this way to re-enforce the enemies Campe, and to force vs if they can, the due, time will bring forth. Meane time, with most humble  
 C remem

remembrance of haste to your worship, beseeching the Almighty  
 to ever to bless and prosper you (begging pardon for this ex-  
 treame tediousnes) I take leave. From W. end this Saint  
 Stephens day after the old stile 1601. Written in haste for the  
 most part by candlelight.

His Lordship (to leaue no stone of advantage unreinforced)  
 causeth every soldier to come doubly, armed to the watch, eve-  
 ry Musketer bringing withall a Pike, and every armed man  
 carrying a musket, to serve with either as shall occa-  
 sion.

His stone travails (unless he had a body of brasse, being  
 continued any long time) must needs bray him into sickness  
 for there passe seue nights, wherein he walketh not abroad,  
 or watcheth not the most part thereof, and in the day time he  
 is so continually possessed with busines, that he hath no time  
 to sleepe, and few men can demore sparingly. All these bal-  
 lanced together will confirme I doubt no lesse then I say.





The declaration of the desperate at-  
tempt made since, by the sayde Archdukes  
forces, for winning of the  
ould Towne.



The Archduke Albertus knowing howe acceptable the newes of this parle would be to al his friends, forgat not presently to write thereof into Germanie, Spaine, and Italie, declaring vnto them hys great god hope within fewe dayes, to possesse the stronge towne of Ost-end, but after he had found his hope thus deluded, (as is befoze sayde) was kindled with greater wrath against the towne then at any time befoze. And hereupon fell to counsell with his Collonels and Captaines, what course he might best take in this so waighty a cause, and reuenge this mockerie done to him and his whole estate. After much reasoning and debating (contrarie to the opinion of some of his best appoyued, Captaines, and Councellozs) it was concluded, that withall his forces, a desperate attempt should be made at one instant, as well vpon the trenches and counterscarps without the towne, as vpon the ould Hauent, for the winning of the ould towne, or at the least wise of the sand-hill: The order of which enterpryse with the day, and time being now resolved vpon, such Gallions, Germaines, & others as had befoze mustined in diuers places, were with money pacified and commaunded to the Campe, Ladders, Shouels, Spades, Pick-axes, and all other necessaries were provided.

In the meane time the Archduke (to helpe the error of his former writing, & perswading himselfe that the towne should not be able to withstand & surse of this forcible enterpryse) sent  
C 2  
posts

posts into all places (as before) aduertising his friends againe of this resolution, and that he made no doubt, but within ten or fourteen dayes to haue the towne at his commaund.

On Monday therefore, being the xxviii. day of December last An. 1601, being the day appointed for this great attempt, An Italian (who was among the rest appointed in the first ranks to begin this charge, at the old Hauen, and knowing the action to be most desperate, and therefore small hope left him euer to returne with his life) fled from the enemies Campe, and with his Rapier in his mouth swome into the Hauen, and being receaued into the towne, declared vnto the Lord Generall, that the same day about 3 of the clock in the after-noon, when the water was ebbed from the walls, the enemy would with all his forces make his attempt both at the old Hauen, and at the works without the towne with ten Thousand men, and that he was fled thither, to saue his life as is before sayd: declaring farther, that it was resolved to renew the assault the two next daies following, & affirmed that if they were the first day valiantly replused, there was no doubt to be had that the soldiers would bee brought to the like banquet the other two daies.

Sir Frauncis Ycare (iudging before that the enemy had some such intent, by reason that he did all the same day as in the night before continue shooting against the Sand-hill and port Dupied) had alreadie given order to the Captaines for the manning of the walls, trenches, and Counterscarps, & caused some peeces of Ordnance to be remoued, and planted 7 great murdering peeces vpon the entrance of the Hauen, which were well laden with square and musket shot, not omitting any thinge that a wise and vigilant Commander ought in so waightie a cause to foresee, encouraging his people to play the parts of good soldiers, and to bestow their shot well, and among the thickest of the enemies when they should make their approach.

When the houre appointed was come, and the water fallen, as is before writtten, the enemy marched towards the old Hauen 40 men a peece, the foremost ranks carried Shotels, Spades, and Pick-axes, the next carried Ladders, after them followed Targets, armed men, and Baskets, all marched forward

forward with such resolution, as if they had made account to haue found no resistance at all, but they were as gallantly, & with like courage receaued, & at all places answered with losse of their best blood, as well without the towne, as at the old Hauen, where the murthering peeces caused the enemies to fall, as rotten ripe apples from the trees in a mighty storme. And although they could not enter the hauen, but they must goe in water vp to the knees, they pressed forward, and those which came behind, put forward the foremost: But suddenly (as Sir Francis Veere had before ordained) twoo sluices were opened, the one giuing way to the land waters, and the other to the waters of the ditches about the towne, by reason whereof many of the enemies (not able to keepe their footing) were drowned, and the others stode in water vp to their shoulers, so that their shot seruied to no vse, for y<sup>e</sup> their powder was hereby wet, but were forced to fight with their swords and rapiers: the fight continued on both sides with great furie, and resolution, vntill the darkness of the euening forced them to retire, whereof they were not a litle glad, for the slaughter was verie great on the enemies side, most Mallons, Dutches and other Nations to the number of 1500, besides many that were wounded. Many of the enemies had made provision of bread and chese tyed behind them to their girdles with a peece of match, thinking therewith to help themselves for a day or two (if neede should so require) after they had gotten the sand hill as they made full account, and there to secure themselves from the shot of the towne for a time, vntill they might with greater force and opportunitie obtaine the old towne. In this assault at all places, there were not aboue 40 of the towne souldiers slaine and hurt: the Lords name be blessed therefore.

In this assault the enemies horsemen were appointed to follow the footmen at the hales, and were commanded by the Duke not to suffer them to retire, but to force the still forward on their enterprize, which they forgot not to accomplish: but as it should seme not altogether with their owne securitie, for some of the horses with their saddells and bydels haue since ben taken vp at Sluce, Flushing, West-cappell, and other places.



places of Zeland, as it pleased the wind and waues to daine them.

The Lord Generall slept little the night following, but was busied in fortifying and repairing such places as according to the time was requisite, doubting least the enemy should the next day renew his attempt, wherunto the Archduke wanted not any good will, but could not preuaile with his soldiers to visit so unkind an host: Yet such came lately as out of Flanders report that the Archduke had appointed upon Tuesday last past being the xij. day of this moneth of Januarie to give a new assault vpon the towne withall his forces, and to that end hath provided 2000 azmoys of pzoofe. But the enemies souldiers unwilling to come to so desperate an attempt, haue denyed there seruice, so that a mutinie is growne in the enemies Campe, 200 and odd are already apprehended & some of the ring-leaders executed, whereof wee shall shortly heare further.

In the meane time let all good Christians prayse God for these his wonderfull victozies, and with humble and heartie prayer without ceasing, desire him to continue these his lasting fauours towarde his poore afflicted Church. And contrarywise to confound and ouerthrowe all the deseings of this obstinate and bloud-thirstie Archduke, with all others his adherents and partakers, who sack and practise all meanes possible (as Wolves both by day and night) to deuoure, and shedde the bloud of the little flocke of Iesus Christ, Amen.

*FINIS.*



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